

Public Affairs Office Weekly Report

July 14, 2020

Hot Issues:

PAO is coordinating with SEMD on a number of news releases for proposed plans at Superfund sites, including coordinating news releases and virtual public meetings.

News Releases:

July 14: [EPA Proposes Cleanup Plan to Address PCB Contamination at the Unimatic Superfund Site in Fairfield, N.J.](#)

Upcoming News Releases:

- Riverside Park Superfund Site Proposed Plan
- Pesticides Warehouse Superfund Site Proposed Plan
- Imperial Oil Superfund Site Proposed Plan
- Hormigas Superfund Site deletion
- FMC Dublin Superfund Site deletion

Upcoming Community Meetings:

- Newtown Creek CAG meeting, July 15
- Hoosick Falls CPWG, July 22
- Unimatic Virtual Public Meeting, July 23
- Gowanus CAG Meeting, July 28
- Riverside Industrial Virtual Public Meeting, August 5

Past Week:

Diamond Alkali and Riverside Industrial Park

On July 9, EPA participated in the Passaic River CAG meeting to discuss the schedule of the lower 8 miles 95% remedial design, which was supposed to be due August 2020 but will now be due in May 2021. The CAG also discussed the upper 9 miles interim actions, including the feasibility study and the difference between all the cleanup alternatives, as well as the project schedule and information on the upcoming CSTAG meeting. EPA also presented on Riverside Industrial Park's proposed plan and upcoming public meeting. Liz Balladares, ambassador from the Lower Passaic River Urban Waters Federal Partnership spoke about how the CAG and the Urban Waters Federal Partnership could team up to reach out to unresponsive landowners to increase their level of engagement. 52 attendees participated in the CAG meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for September. (POC: Shereen Kandil)

Unimatic

The Unimatic Proposed Plan has been approved and will be released on July 14. The public comment period will begin July 14 and end August 12. The virtual public meeting will still be scheduled on July 23. (POC: Donette Samuel)

Sherwin Williams

The weekly internal meeting was held on July 7. The latest COVID fact sheet was shared with SW related to the next 4 residential properties in Voorhees. The tentative start work date is August 3. (POC: Pat Seppi)

Pohatcong

The weekly internal meeting was held on July 7. The restart of interior work was approved and is planned to start on July 13 at the rate of 2 properties per day. These are properties who need the indoor connection to hook up their water lines. The schedule is filling up rapidly and most residents were not concerned about us being inside their homes. There was an O&M meeting on July 8 to discuss how Rio Tinto plans to address the sampling of the 30 outlier properties which should start in the fall. (POC: Pat Seppi)

Ringwood Mines

EPA CIC received a call at 6pm on Thursday, July 9 from Judy Sullivan who stated she heard a plane had crashed into the Ringwood Mine, that there was a fire, and residents were very distressed and anxious. The CIC immediately reached out to some contacts who knew there was a fire but did not have details then. Later that evening, the CIC received a video from a CAG member that did show the brush fire but not on site. On Friday morning, the RPM found out the wires in the utility right of way had arched due to a faulty insulator and started a brush fire in the right of way. The Forest Fire Service, a part of NJDEP, responded and put out the fire. It did not reach the site at any time. The Borough was also on site. (POC: Pat Seppi)

Superfund Site Profile Page Redesign – Documents Team

Region 2 is co-leading national workgroup tasked with re-vamping the way documents are presented on Superfund site profile webpages across the nation. The creation of this team is a result of a national survey that went out to Regions regarding the usability of SPPs. On July 9, ICAB staff participated on a kick-off call and discussed two potential options for presenting documents. The next team meeting is July 16. (POC: Carsen Mata)

Upcoming:

Onondaga Lake (Lower Ley Creek subsite): EPA is working on developing a communications strategy for the Lower Ley Creek subsite and Ley Creek Deferred Media portion of the General Motors – Inland Fisher Guide subsite of the Onondaga Lake Superfund site to develop systematic communications with local residential, commercial, and industrial entities, as well as elected officials, through consistent engagement to support EPA's design and remedial action activities. (POC: Larisa Romanowski)

Tonawanda Coke

EPA has received an invitation from Erie County Legislator Kevin Hardwick the Chair of the Government Affairs Committee to attend a meeting of the Government Affairs Committee meeting on Thursday, July 16, 2020 at 10 am so that the legislature and the public can receive updates and a status report on the remediation at the former Tonawanda Coke Corporation, Tonawanda, NY. EPA will join the NYSDEC and Town of Tonawanda representatives, the new owners of the property and members of the Western New York Clean Air Coalition. (POC: Mike Basile)

GM Massena

Work resumed at the GM site on June 1. The 2020 work includes site grading, groundwater treatment system construction and site maintenance. The outreach associated with the FYR is anticipated for the week of July 13 or July 20. (POC: Larisa Romanowski)

Hoosick Falls

EPA previously received an email request for EPA participation in the July 22 CPWG meeting to discuss the following topics 1) EPA final rule incorporating 172 PFAS to the Toxic Release Inventory by the National Defense Authorization Act, 2) Launch of PFAS Innovative Treatment Team (PITT) and what it might mean for Hoosick residents. Tim Watkins from ORD will discuss the PITT and David Turk, Branch Chief for the Regulatory Development Branch of the TRI Program Division will discuss the TRI at the July 22 weekend. (POC: Larisa Romanowski)

Regional Administrator's Pending Action Items:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Date Sent to RA's Office</u>	<u>Required By/Due Date</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Kiryas Joel – RA to share letter sent to NYSDEC with Orange County attorney, Langdon Chapman	3/9/2020		Mary shared WD draft
Draft email to Joe Brazauskas re: Vieques/GAO Audit	6/23	ASAP	Email from Sabina 6/23
Email response to Bob Spiegel re: American Cyanamid	7/14	ASAP	Email from Sabina 7/14
Response to Asm. Galef re: Arsenic Mine	7/15	ASAP	Email from Sabina 7/15